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PEO Enterprise Information Systems

The DEPLOYER

To The Fight And Back
TC-AIMS II

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The Deployer Mission Statement

The mission of The Deployer is to provide the community of Transportation Information Systems users, stakeholders and sponsors timely knowledge on our family of systems—systems that empower the DoD to plan, deploy, load, monitor and provide full visibility of the transportation process.

Message from the PM

Mr. Robert Morris, PM,TIS

We have just received notice that the TC-AIMS II Web-enabled Block 2 product is approved for fielding to the Army and Navy! This announcement has been a very long time in coming. As you know, decisions made at the Department of Defense level do not happen without a lot of preparatory work. I was able to thank the TIS employees at our recent Spring Fling (My deputy, Lee DeArmond, and I did the cooking!). It would be impossible to mention everyone else who helped to make Block 2 a reality so let me just say "thank you" for a great job. There are a number of Block 2 specific articles in this edition of The Deployer. I hope you find them enlightening.

The Block 2 approval begins a new chapter in the program's life. We began fielding activities at Forts Benning and Campbell several months ago with the intent of implementing Block 2, even though we were not certain we would have the decision in time. We have fielding teams in Europe and Korea that will begin the transition process immediately as well. For those organizations who asked, we provided access to our Block 2 "sandbox" so that they could start becoming familiar with the web version before they converted from Block 1. Some organizations have gained sufficient confidence to transition themselves to Block 2 with remote assistance from the program office.

Our Block 3 product which will support the Joint Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration (JRSO&I) mission is mature enough to begin allowing users to view a prototype version. The program office is in the process of inviting users with movement control and mode management expertise to evaluate the product and provide us feedback on where we are heading. As always, we also solicit everyone's feedback on our fielded products.

I'm asking for your help to make our help desk more responsive. Every time you contact the help desk with an issue you will receive a survey questionnaire by e-mail. We are in the process of changing the questions on the survey to attempt to better understand your satisfaction with the assistance you received from the help desk. Please fill those surveys out and return them. There will soon be an option to have a program office person to contact you, who works outside the help desk organization, to discuss any issues you may have. If you have specific suggestions on improving the help desk I would appreciate you communicating them to my office. Enjoy The Deployer. 💻

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Access to the Transportation Information Systems (TIS) Enterprise—TIS-TO and TC-AIMS II

by Bill Dunn, Titan Corporation

Given the approval to field TC-AIMS II Block 2, the Web-enabled version of the application, the Transportation Information Systems (TIS) Joint Program Management Office (JPMO) is increasingly asked about procedures to obtain an account on the TIS Enterprise. With the TIS Enterprise, as with any DoD networked system, local commanders are responsible for ensuring that access to all DoD networks, DoD information systems and associated data/information under their purview is granted only on a need-to-know basis according to DoD regulations. Commanders must also ensure that all personnel having access are appropriately cleared or qualified under the provisions of DoD 5200.2-R (reference (r)). To assist the commanders fulfill their responsibilities, TIS has established a key role specifically for authorizing access to a unit's/organization's data. The key person in this process is the local unit/organization's User Account Manager (UAM).

The UAM is appointed by field grade commanders or equivalent at unit/organization level. While the UAM does not require an Enterprise account, the UAM must meet the same requirements as a normal user – the UAM must have completed a favorable National Agency Check (NAC). The UAM, acting on behalf of the commander, is responsible for authorizing user accounts for TIS information systems by establishing users' need to know (e.g., identifying authorization for access to unit data) and for identifying the individual user's roles and privileges. The UAM establishes the Enterprise access controls by identifying/establishing the users' roles and privileges to enable access to authorized information and to remove authorizations when access is no longer needed.

The UAM for the unit/organization will identify the users requiring TIS Enterprise access. The UAM will sign a form certifying the applicant's need to know and need for the access, the desired user profile, and the UICs with which the applicant will work. The UAM will also indicate the TIS application (currently TIS-TO and/or TC-AIMS II) to which the user should be granted access. The user's application will be forwarded to the TIS Help Desk for processing. Additionally, the UAM or the individual applicant must request the unit's/organization's security manager to submit verification of favorable completion of a NAC directly to the TIS JPMO Security Manager. For ease of processing, the security manager may simply submit a visit authorization request (VAR). Please be advised that in accordance with the regulations, the TIS Help Desk will not process any access request for which there is not a VAR on file.

In accordance with regulatory direction, exceptions can be made for individuals who have an open investigation in progress and/or for certain other considerations (e.g., local national employees based on existing Status of Forces Agreements). Such exceptions require the UAM appointing authority (typically the commander or the G-3 as appropriate) to provide an additional certification of the individuals' need for system access and acceptance of responsibility for granting access on an exception basis to the DoD network. Please call the TIS Help Desk (866-822-4672) or see the TIS Web site (https://www.tis.army.mil) for forms. 💻

NEWS FLASH!

TC-AIMS II has received Block 2 Approval

The TIS JPMO Business Management Directorate

by Lucille Tew, Program Analyst

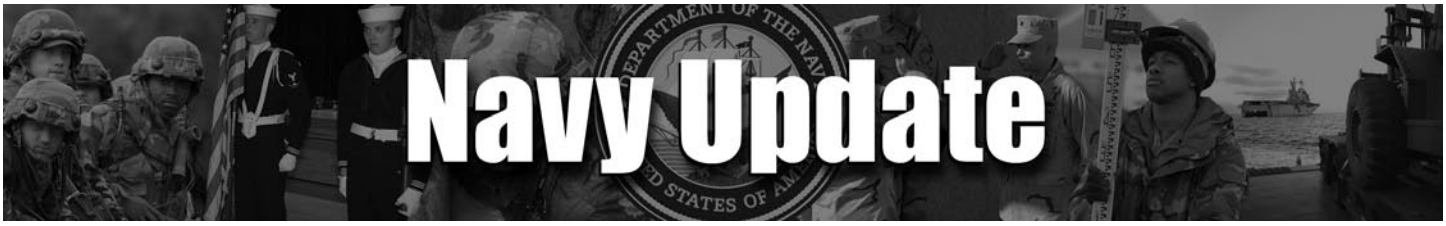
The Joint Program Management Office (JPMO) Business Management Directorate (BMD) is instrumental to both the development and support for the best possible automated system.

The program management function of BMD is a challenging and a critical piece of the acquisition process. During these austere times it's imperative that efficient and economical use of resources are executed. This is achieved through continual planning, defending the products and associated resources at the PEO EIS and higher headquarters. The TIS JPMO has a great BMD team that can articulate the vision and priorities of the Project Manager.

What is so unique about the JPMO BMD team is the intuitiveness of each team player. Within a split second the BMD team is expected to and does react promptly to revolving program requirements inclusive of technical changes, schedule realignments, contractual issues, adjusted work year levels, congressional/DA funding decrements and or withholds, what-if-drills and more.

The TIS JPMO BMD folks continue to think out of the box….bringing well founded program solutions to the daily drudgery of on-going task.

The TIS JPMO BMD is fortunate to add another government employee to the team, Mr. Christopher Reading, Operations Research Analyst… WELCOME Chris! 💻



TC-AIMS II Supports the Navy

by Dorothy McLeod, as seen in CHIPS - The Department of the Navy Information Technology Magazine

OIF Deployment Support

The U.S. Navy is using TC-AIMS II to deploy troops and equipment in support of the war on terrorism in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Navy expeditionary forces used TC-AIMS II to support deployments to the Southwest Asia area of responsibility. The system provided deployment planning support and produced the required transportation documentation for two Seabee Battalions, or the Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs), one Seabee Regiment, one Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare unit, one Inshore Boat Unit, three reserve Cargo Handling Battalions and a portion of the Reserve Navy Supply Support Battalion.

Exercise Support

TC-AIMS II was used to support the Amphibious Construction Battalion TWO (ACB II) deployment to Honduras for exercises Joint Logistics Over-The-Shore (JLOTS 04) and New Horizon. In total, the system prepared transportation documentation and provided in-transit visibility from origin to destination, or as the Army says, "from fort to foxhole" for more than 3.2 million pounds of equipment and supplies by sea and 300,000 pounds of equipment, supplies and 437 troops by air.

The Road Ahead

TC-AIMS II Block 2, which is anticipated to begin fielding soon, will introduce Navy users to the Transportation Information Systems (TIS) Enterprise, also known as the Central Management Facility (CMF). The TIS Enterprise is owned and operated by the TIS Joint Program Management Office (TIS-JPMO). The TIS JPMO is the TC-AIMS II Army developer and hosts the Web-accessible TC-AIMS II. These enterprise services will be provided by the TIS JPMO to our Navy TC-AIMS II users at no cost.

Since the TIS Enterprise was established two years ago, the user community has grown by about 300 percent. To ensure enough available bandwidth, the TIS JPMO acquired a full duplex 100 Mbps Transparent Lan Service (TLS) circuit to accommodate the increase in demand.

Navy TC-AIMS II users will be able to perform all of the deployment support activities currently available on their semi-ruggedized, deployable laptop computers, but they will have the added ability to share information with other units. For example, a Seabee Battalion will be able to create a movement plan on the enterprise that can be accessed by its regiment embarkation support staff.

Equally as important, users will be able to easily update their data, such as, unit deployment lists or movement plans between the enterprise and stand-alone platforms. Users will also be able to obtain software and reference table upgrades from the enterprise for deployable laptops.

Another powerful tool that the enterprise configuration will bring to bear is a shadowing capability that allows the TIS help desk personnel to literally follow along with a user on the enterprise to resolve issues more quickly and efficiently.

The next scheduled increment of TC-AIMS II, Block 3, is currently in development and will offer automation for theater movement control, convoy operations in theater (including route deconfliction) and map graphics. Block 3 development is anticipated to conclude in early FY 2006.

The Space and Naval Systems Center Norfolk is the TC-AIMS II technology integrator for the Navy and has also provided technical support to the TC-AIMS Navy Program Office at the Naval Operational Logistics Support Center (NOLSC), headquartered in Norfolk, Va.

For more information go to the TC-AIMS II Web site: https://www.tis.army.mil.

How Do I Receive Training in TC-AIMS II?

by Chris Hall, Titan Corporation

So you have been identified as a TC-AIMS II user and you need to know how to go about accomplishing that task. The best way to receive training is to attend the courses that are offered at your post during initial fielding of the system. Three simple steps will get you into class.

Step One

Register for class in ATRRS (Army Training Requirements and Resources Systems). To do this, contact your local ATRRS personnel within your unit and they should be able to enroll you into the Transportation Information School, school code 026. It is important to do this as soon as you can. There are only a set number of classes offered and a set number of seats within those classes. Early registration is essential to ensure that you have your choice of class dates. If registration for a class is not 70 percent complete for total amount of seats offered by 30 days prior to class, the class will be cancelled for lack of participation. The instructors will conduct classes only when there are a sufficient number of students, so don't delay.

Step Two

Establish a TIS Enterprise user account. TC-AIMS II is one of several applications in the TIS Enterprise. TC-AIMS II user accounts are requested by your TIS User Account Manager (UAM). Your UAM will ensure that the appropriate request forms are completed and that your unit security manager provides the TIS Enterprise managers with the appropriate background investigation information. Your responsibility is to ensure that the UAM has the correct personal information, that a TC-AIMS II training account is requested, and that a valid AKO e-mail address is provided.

Step Three

Seven days prior to class check your AKO e-mail account for two e-mails. One e-mail will have your user account name and another will have your password. The account is time sensitive, so do not expect it before seven days from class start. You will need to bring your password and user account name to class on the first day.

If you do not get these e-mails, contact the post POC for TC-AIMS II Fielding for guidance. Failing to contact the POC could delay the class.

If you have accomplished all three steps properly you will have a TIS account and a TC-AIMS II training account. There are a lot of processes behind the scenes that take place to accomplish these things but you need only be concerned with these three steps. Have a good Class.

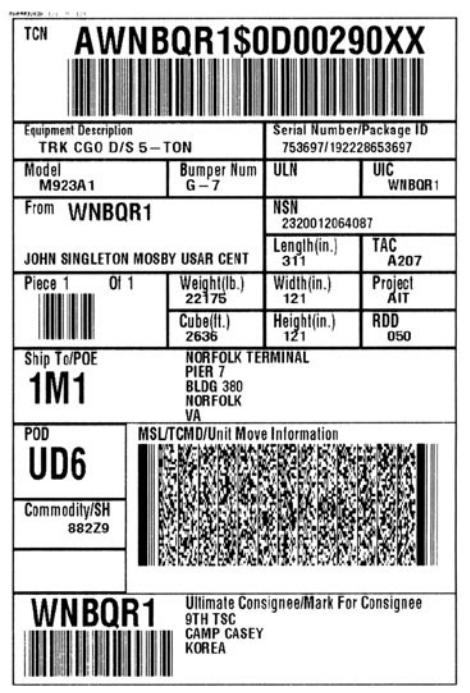
UPDATE: Approved TC-AIMS II Fielding Schedule

	Fielding Window	
	Start	End
Block 1		
Fort Bragg	May 17, 2004	November 19, 2004
Block 1 to Block 2 Transitions		
Fort Irwin (No training—data to enterprise only)	July 11, 2005	July 29, 2005
Fort Polk (No training—data to enterprise only)	August 1 , 2005	August 19, 2005
Korea	March 21, 2005	May 20, 2005
USAREUR	June 13, 2005	July 8, 2005
Fort Lewis	July 11, 2005	October 7, 2005
Hawaii	October 10, 2005	December 16, 2005
Japan	January 1, 2006	January 19, 2006
Alaska	February 10, 2006	February 23, 2006
Block 2		
Fort Benning Fielding (w/o 3ID)	January 10, 2005	March 18, 2005
Fort Campbell	January 17, 2005	April 8, 2005
Fort Drum	May 23, 2005	July 29, 2005
Fort Hood	August 8, 2005	March 9, 2006
Fort Carson	January 13, 2006	March 30, 2006
Fort Eustis	March 10, 2006	June 22, 2006
Fort Bliss	March 31, 2006	May 11, 2006
Fort Sill	May 12, 2006	June 29, 2006
Fort Stewart (w/o 3ID)	June 23, 2006	September 7, 2006
3ID (Fort Stewart/Benning)	June 23, 2006	August 10, 2006
Fort Dix	September 8, 2006	November 2, 2006
Fort Riley	January 26, 2007	March 29, 2007
Fort Buchanan	March 30, 2007	May 24, 2007
Fort McCoy	March 30, 2007	May 24, 2007
Aberdeen PG	March 30, 2007	July 19,2007

(Dates are subject to change)

Anatomy of a Military Shipping Label
by James Wynn, Functional Analyst, TIS

A 2D bar code has a much greater data storage capacity that a linear bar code. It is capable of holding 1,850 characters. A 2D bar code can sustain considerable damage and still be read because of the redundancy of data within the bar code. Department of Defense (DoD) uses commercial standard Portable Data File 417 (PDF 417) as the standard for all DoD 2D bar codes. The 2D symbology provides comprehensive data on documents, individual items or shipments, and consolidation data on multi-packs and air pallets. Military shipping labels incorporate 2D bar code fields as well as linear bar codes.



Unit Move—Required marking includes:

1. Length, Width, Height (this piece)
2. Unit Identification Code (UIC)
3. Commodity/Special Handling Code (air or water)
4. Vehicle Serial Number, if applicable
5. Equipment Description, if applicable
6. Bumper Number (Army/Navy only), if applicable
7. Model Number (Army/Navy only), if applicable

Unit Move—Optional marking includes:

1. Unit Line Number (ULN)
2. Equipment Serial Number
3. National Stock Number
4. Commercial Tracking Number and bar code

Third Generation Radio Frequency Identification Tags
by James Wynn, Functional Analyst, TIS

A Department of the Army Automated Information Technology (AIT) Coordinating Group Workshop was conducted at Humphreys Conference and Training Center, Casey Building, Fort Belvoir on 12 April 2005. The following is an extract of a presentation provided by Jeff Fee, Logistics Transformation Agency.

Mr. Fee spoke about development and testing of the "Third Generation Radio Frequency Identification with Satellite Communications (3G RFID w/SATCOM)." The prototype 3G tag was developed by three private companies. Ocean Systems Engineering was responsible for the tag's design and development; NAL Research integrated the components of the device; and Savi Technologies, provided the trial with engineering support and the four base ST-410 tags that were integrated with Global Positioning Satellite and Iridium equipment to create 3G tags. 3G RFID tags integrated with satellite communications and a GPS results in a single device that can overcome the "where is it now?" asset tracking problem.

According to Mr. Fee, even with the robust active RFID infrastructure currently in place, immediate asset visibility is not possible when deploying into austere environments. The fastest that the Army and DOD have been able to set up a fixed RFID infrastructure in an austere environment is approximately two to four weeks. By that time, under normal operational tempo for an ongoing operation in the deployment stage, combat equipment and supplies have already moved through the intermediate staging base. This leaves the RFID infrastructure to play catchup, which, of course, never happens until much later in the operation.

Adding satellite tracking to RFID tags promises to extend a shipment's visibility beyond choke points such as ports and distribution centers, where fixed readers have been deployed, and into locations where there is little or no infrastructure, not even electricity—the kinds of places that warfighters are in when they order and require materiel shipments. Currently, forces can track their shipments by computer by accessing the Global Transportation Network servers, but that visibility is limited to where RFID readers are deployed. By adding GPS and satellite communications to tags, warfighters should be able to check order status from the time of order fulfillment until delivery.

Once the 3G tags are fully implemented, they will allow transportation personnel to monitor shipments as they move through the supply chain to ensure that they are transported in a timely manner and along the correct route, an ability necessary for the new era of sense-and-respond logistics.

'On the Road Again'—Korea
by Edward Lukasek, SRA International

The first wave of TC-AIMS II trainers arrived in Korea March 22 to kick off the new TC-AIMS II Block 2 training. The three installations consist of Camp Henry with instructor Mr. Lukasek, Camp Humphreys with Mr. Price and Mr. Greaves and Yongsan with Mr. Harper. Camp Humphreys had 14 students and broadcasted the training to the 13 students at Camp Henry via the distance learning modality. Camp Henry was a unique class made up of three sustainment instructors, Mr. Hiller, Mr. Thill and Mr. Yu, and one analyst, Samuel Henrich. The three instructors make up a cohesive team to teach TC-AIMS II Block 2 sustainment training for all of Korea. Mr. Thill said "With the high turnover rate in Korea, and the current transformation of the Army into a modular force, movement is inevitable and this training is the cornerstone for a successful unit move." Mr. Yu said "I appreciated the Block 2 training not only from a student's standpoint but it also allowed me to gain new techniques in teaching the new materials." "The class at Camp Henry attained an average of 97 percent"' said Lukasek. "They were eager to learn the TC-AIMS II materials and at the same time enjoyed themselves".

The second wave of TC-AIMS II instructors arrived in country the first week of April and will continue till the latter part of May.

Mr. Ed Lukasek instructs TC-AIMS II, Block 2 software to sustainment instructors. From the left are Mr. Hiller, Mr. Lukasek, Mr. Yu and Mr.Thill.

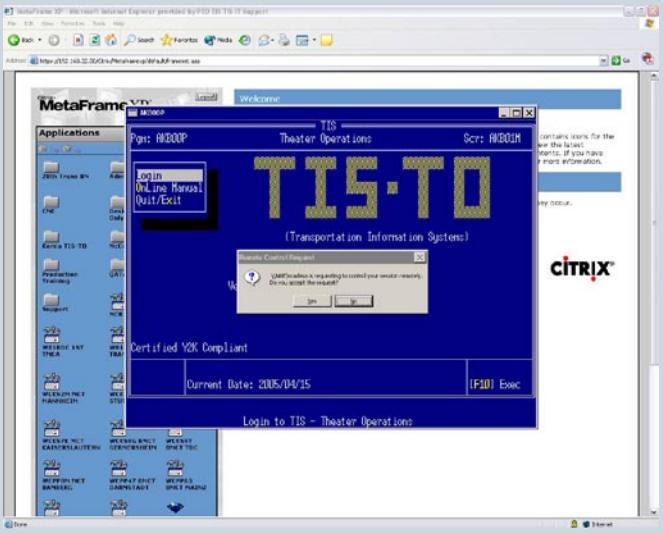
Is there something you would like to read or hear about in the next issue of The Deployer? Please send your ideas and suggestions to:

tiswebmaster@eis.army.mil

Tips from the TIS Help Desk
by Marcus Odum, Titan Corporation

Under Construction
The TIS Help Desk is currently undergoing some changes to benefit, you! That's right, you, our customers. We have reviewed your surveys, comments, recommendations, and even your complaints. We have taken all of that information to make some enhancements within our Help Desk. During this process we will continue to provide you outstanding service. Please stay tuned as we begin to release these changes in the near future.

Help Desk Shadowing
We continually research for new ways of assisting our users more effectively through the implementation of new technology. Recently we have added a feature that will allow Help Desk agents to view user progress through TIS applications. This feature is known as shadowing. With user permission, Help Desk agents can view active sessions within the Enterprise. If your problem is more severe, and is escalated to the Expert Support Team then you can allow the agents to control your session and assist you remotely. Below is a screenshot of a request to control an active session.



There are minimum requirements users must meet in order to be eligible for this service. The user must have an active account in the TIS Enterprise as well as have an active internet connection with Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher with Service Pack 1.

Technical Tips

TC-AIMS II

Bill of Lading for Barge
by Bill Dunn, Titan Corporation

Help is at hand for any installation which has fielded TC-AIMS II software and has a need to cut a bill of lading for barge. Calling the TIS Help Desk will cause a software patch to be forwarded to the requestor which will add barge types to the TC-AIMS II database. Instructions on using the rail bill of lading functionality for barge will also be provided.

Data Quality in the Organization Equipment List (OEL)—Part 2

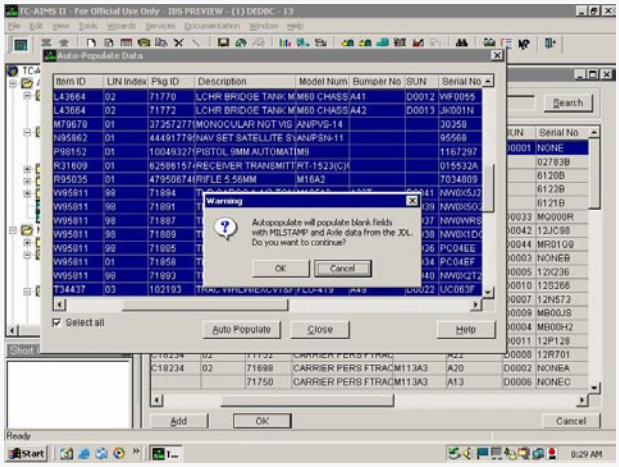
This is the second in a series of Data Completion Tech Tips to assist with Data Quality and Completion in Asset Management. The Winter 2005 issue of The Deployer, provided examples of adding and copying equipment records to your OEL. The examples provided the information to enter the data with correct and complete information. (Reference the TIS/Technical Tips Web Page for previously published Tech Tips and to find a detailed description of mandatory fields.)

The tips in this article continue with the auto-populate tool available to improve the quality of Equipment Records TC-AIMS II. In addition, this article provides an example of entering personnel data.

A. Auto-populate blank fields in the Equipment Records:

The Auto-populate function is an extremely useful tool that many users tend to forget about during the data review and completion process. This tool will populate blank MILSTAMP and Axle data from the TIS reference data.

1. Open Manage Equipment; Select the Container to copy
2. Select Tools, Auto-populate from the tool bar
3. Select individual records that have missing MILSTAMP and axle data or check the "Select All" box.
4. A screen will pop up prompting the user to continue as seen in the following screen shot:



5. Click OK.
6. The message will be displayed "The data has been successfully populated".
7. Click OK. The Auto-populate screen closes and the user is returned to Manage Equipment.

Conditions for using the Auto-Populate Tool:
- The Auto-populate tool will only populate BLANK fields. Existing data will not be overwritten.
- The MILSTAMP and Axle data for an equipment record must exist in the Reference tables.

B. Add a Personnel Record to your OEL:

Personnel records can be added to the OEL either by importing from the Service personnel system or by entering the data manually. This example provides the steps to add the record manually. (Importing and exporting interface data will be covered in a future series.).

1. Open Asset Management / Manage Personnel / Manage Personnel
2. Select the Add button
3. The following table provides fields that need to be reviewed and completed for personnel. (This is the minimum set of Mandatory fields that are needed for Movement Planning/Execution reports and interfaces.)

Technical Tips, continued on page 8

Technical Tips, continued from page 7

Populate the following fields:

TAB	DATA ELEMENT	VALUE
General	UIC	Identifies specific active, reserve, and National Guard units. When you select a UIC from the Look-up table, the UIC Name, UT Code, GEOLOC, and Location will be populated.
	Grade	Service member's pay-grade. Ensure the pay grade is selected for the appropriate Service (i.e. a Captain in the Army is not the same as a Captain in the Navy.) Service will automatically populate when Pay Grade is entered
	Service Code	Service member's military branch (A=Army, N=Navy, F=Air Force, and M=Marines)
	Last Name	Service member's last name
	First Name	Service member's first name
	SSN	U.S. social security numbers are nine characters long, however, the system allows up to 16 characters in support of Host Nation personnel. ** Do not enter symbols such as the "-".
	Sex	Male or Female, selected from dropdown
	Blood Type	Blood type selected from a drop down (If unknown enter UNK)
	Body Wt	Body weight in (lbs)
Occupation	MOS/AFSC	Occupation Code must match with Service and Grade
Administration	Rank Abbrev	Auto-Populates based on Grade selected on the General tab, or can be selected from lookup table

4. Click on the OK button to add the record to the OEL Note: The OK button is not active until the UIC, SSN, Service, and Last Name fields have been populated.
5. Complete the Mandatory data by populating the following fields:

TAB	DATA ELEMENT	VALUE
Occupation	MOS/AFSC	Occupation Code must match with Service and Grade
Administration	Rank Abbrev	Auto-Populates based on Grade selected on the General tab, or can be selected from lookup table

6. Now that the item is in your OEL, ensure the data fields are complete and have correct values.

Rules for managing Personnel Data:

- The Generate Records function cannot be used to "copy" personnel records. Each record must be entered one at a time. (Generate Records can only be used for Equipment.)
- SSN cannot be edited. If a mistake is found with an SSN, the record must be deleted and then added with the correct values.

TIS-TO

TIS-TO—File Maintenance

by Robert White, TIS

All TIS-TO files are maintained on the file server in Springfield, VA and are backed up daily. All users should continue to run the TIS-TO history process monthly and the maintenance processes weekly. Remember, prior to executing the history process users should execute the reindex/compress and reconcile records processes. Users are also reminded to check their system parameter table and ensure that they are not keeping transactions in excess on five days.

Transitions

TIS Spring Fling 2005

TIS held its first annual Spring Fling picnic on April 19, 2005. The weather was sunny and beautiful and the grounds outside our office were transformed for good cooking and lots of fun. Mr. Robert Morris (PM), Mr. Lee DeArmond (DPM), and Mr. Doug Garrell (Director, ILS) were in charge of manning the grills with delicious hamburgers and hot dogs. There was no shortage of snacks or tasty treats either. With the assistance of all who attended, everyone was reacquainted and we welcomed those who have just joined the TIS family. The TIS Spring Fling picnic was a group effort and the result was a most enjoyable celebration!

Please Help Us Help You

When e-mailing the TIS Help Desk with a private e-mail address (e.g., AOL, Comcast or Hotmail), please help us by identifying yourself. Please provide the following information: your name, your location, and your association with the project. If we do not have the necessary information, we will respond to your e-mail with a request for more information, which only slows down the process in resolving your problem or answering your question.

Please help us so that we may better help you.

Thank you for your cooperation. 💻

Help Desk Toll Free Number

Great news for Transportation Information Systems (TIS) customers! We now have a toll-free line for customer support.

For questions about TC-AIMS II or TC ACCIS, contact us by phone, 24 X 7, at:

1-866-TCAIMS2
(1-866-822-4672)

or at our DSN number:
221-5000

or by e-mail at
tishelpdesk@eis.army.mil

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